

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 8, line 23 and ending on page 9, line 3, with the following rewritten paragraph:

B1
-- Strap hook 150 is made up of inner plate 160 and an overlapping outer plate 162 having respective curved ends 164, 166. Opposite the curved ends 164, 166 of the inner and outer plates 160, 162 are slotted portions 168, 170. Plates 160, 162 are ~~also interconnected~~ joined by a loosely fit rivet 172. The slotted portions 168, 170 are adapted to accept the end 152 of the strap 154. It will be seen that The combination of the flexibility of end 152 of the strap 154 and the loose fit arrangement of the end 152 of the strap hook 150 with slotted portions 168, 170 and the ability of the inner and outer plates 160, 162 to move with respect to rivet 172, the strap hook 150 can be opened s to fit be connected to an appropriate pin 174 such as may be located on a strap shortening device 22 or anchor pocket bar 134, 136 (Figure 24).--

Please add the following new paragraph to the beginning of page 1 of the specification:

B2
-- This application is a divisional application based in Serial No. 09/459,545 filed December 13, 1999, which is now issued U.S. Patent No. 6,422,794.--

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